abstract has been amended. Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to. The abstract has been amended as suggested in the office action. Applicants respectfully contend that the objection has therefore been overcome.

Claim 1 is objected to because of informalities. Claim 1 has been amended as suggested in the office action. Applicants respectfully contend that the objection has therefore been overcome.

Claims 10-28 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 10 and 13 have been amended accordingly. Applicants respectfully contend that this ground for rejection has been overcome.

Claims 1-6 and 10-13 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barth et al. in view of Timbs. Barth et al. discloses a mechanism for performing data transfers for communication with a dynamic random access memory (DRAM). In particular, the sections cited disclose a request oriented DRAM system in which communication with the DRAMs are achieved by transmitting on predetermined transmission lines at a predetermined time sequence (see e.g., col. 2, lines 52-55). Barth et al., neither teaches nor discloses a communication system, for example, as set forth in claim 1,

> at least two functional blocks, wherein an initiator functional block of the at least two functional blocks sends transfer requests to a target functional block of the at least two functional blocks, said target functional block responding to the transfer requests, by establishing a connection, wherein a connection is a logical state in which data may pass between the first functional block and the second functional block;
>
> a communication medium configured to carry a plurality of signals, wherein the plurality of signals comprises a connection identifier that identifies a particular connection that a data transfer is part of;

an initiator interface module coupled to the initiator functional block and to the communication medium to transfer data between the initiator functional block and the communication medium; and

a target interface module coupled to the target functional block and to the communication medium to transfer data between the target functional block and the communication medium;

the connection identifier sent with a transfer request from the initiator interface module to the target interface module and sent with data transfers between the target interface module and the initiator interface module.

Timbs does not remedy the shortcomings of Barth et al. Timbs discloses a process for converting a data stream into cells for transfer over a cell based network such as an ATM network. Applicants would like to first point out that there simply is no teaching to combine a DRAM memory and a mechanism for converting data into cells for use in an ATM network. If this combination is maintained, Applicants respectfully request that the office action clearly point out the teaching to combine so that a better response may be provided.

Assuming arguendo there were to be a teaching to combine, the combination still fails to teach or disclose the claimed present invention. Although Timbs refers to a data link connection identifier, the commonality with the connection identifier claimed ends at the nomenclature used. Reviewing Timbs, this connection ID is used in a cell based network and identifies the data source and is associated with a span line number which is used in a particular address translation. Furthermore, Timbs discloses the data link connection identifier is mapped to a virtual channel indentifier (see e.g., col 14, lines 15-21).

The resultant combination would be Barth et al.'s DRAM system coupled to Timbs device, Timbs device translating data for communication on a cell based network performing translations discussed above. Therefore, the combination neither teaches nor discloses, for example as set forth in claim 1:

1,

at least two functional blocks, wherein an initiator functional block of the at least two functional blocks sends transfer requests to a target functional block of the at least two functional blocks, said target functional block responding to the transfer requests, by establishing a connection,

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wherein a connection is a logical state in which data may pass between the first functional block and the second functional block;

a communication medium configured to carry a plurality of signals, wherein the plurality of signals comprises a connection identifier that identifies a particular connection that a data transfer is part of;

an initiator interface module coupled to the initiator functional block and to the communication medium to transfer data between the initiator functional block and the communication medium; and

a target interface module coupled to the target functional block and to the communication medium to transfer data between the target functional block and the communication medium;

the connection identifier sent with a transfer request from the initiator interface module to the target interface module and sent with data transfers between the target interface module and the initiator interface module.

For the reasons noted above, claims 1, 2, 4, 11 and 12 are distinguished over the cited art and are in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 7-9 are rewritten to be in independent form to place them in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 11, 12, 14-28 are rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 USC 112, second paragraph and to be in independent form to place them in condition for allowance. Similarly, claims 29 and 30 are in condition for allowance. Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: Sept 18, 2000

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